

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 29, 2004. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination. Claim 14 has been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, and Claim 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 1 and 14 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The specification has been amended to add headings, as requested by the Examiner.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-13 and 15-17 and the indication that Claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. The latter claim has not been so rewritten because, for the reasons given below, its base claim is believed to be allowable.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,337,929 B1 (“Kajiwara”) in view of published PCT application WO 97/18527 (“Bradley”).

Generally speaking, Claim 14 has been amended to correspond more closely to allowed Claim 1. Claim 14 recites, *inter alia*, a memory circuit in which sub-frequency band blocks LL are stored in order to produce second blocks having the same size as the first blocks and each consisting of sub-frequency band blocks LL obtained in the filtering circuit from four of the first blocks (the filtering circuit performs a one-level forward wavelet transformation on the second blocks). As acknowledged in paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the combination of Kajiwara and Bradley, even assuming such a combination would be permissible, does not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, Claim 14 is believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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